

Pascagoula Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Department
Kerley Family

Linda French
2309 22nd Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Dear Mrs. Strickland:

I just received my copy of Who Married Whom in Jasper County and am thoroughly enjoying it. In the introduction, you asked for additions or corrections. Those I have are as follows:

Page 106 - Ira French and Family....

- (1) James M. French married Bridget Kerley, daughter of John and Mary Kerley (pg. 174), in 1886. These are my paternal great-grandparents.
- (2) Ira French died during the Civil War. According to his CSA military records, he died at the Seventh Louisiana Military Hospital in Brookhaven on Feb. 28, 1863. He
- (3) held the rank of private in Company A, 7th Battalion, Mississippi Volunteers.
- (3) His daughter, Mary Ellen, was born May 2, 1863 not 1864. Her husband was C. James, not G. James.

Page 174 - The sons of John and Mary Kerley....

All the Kerley brothers eventually moved to Bassfield in Jeff Davis County. Enclosed is a family history.

You will find several of the Irish Paulding families in Bassfield records, especially at St. Peter's Church and in St. James Cemetery. Father Mike Kelleher of St. Mary's in Gautier researched many of these families several years ago. You may want to get with him someday.

Again, thanks for the book.

Sincerely,



Linda French

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KERLEY

Kerley (Curley-MacCurley-Turley) are the anglicized forms of the old Irish (Gaelic) name - MacFhearghaile, which is almost entirely confined to Connaught and particularly the counties of Galway and Roscommon. The connection of Curley with Roscommon is emphasized by the placenames Ballymacurley and Curley's Island - both in that county.

In 1810, John Kerley was born in King's County (Offaly) Ireland. Around 1847 he married Mary Cotter who was born in 1819 in County Armagh. The 1840's were a time of terrible famine in Ireland as the potato crop failed year after year. John and Mary decided to immigrate to America. As a first step, they, like many poor families, went to Manchester, England to work and raise money for passage. While in Manchester, their first son, William, was born in 1848. They eventually left for the USA and entered through the port of Mobile. They found their way to Paulding in Jasper County, Mississippi. Their next four children were born in Mississippi. Those children were Joseph (1851), Thomas Leo (1852), Bridget (1857) and Peter (1864). John Kerley died between 1864 and 1870 and is buried in Paulding. Mary Cotter Kerley died at the age of 87 in 1906. She is buried in St. James Cemetery in Bassfield.

Bassfield (Jeff Davis County) was originally settled by twelve families. Ten of the families, including all four Kerley brothers, were of Irish descent. The Faler family was German and the Sylvest family was Italian. Over the generations, the Kerleys have managed to integrate all the other families into the Kerley family.

William Henry Kerley married Mary Ann Burgin. They were the parents of four children. In 1884, there was a typhoid epidemic. William and three of his children died of the dis-

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ease. Only one son, Dennis, survived. He married Mary Faler. They had six children: Delma, Mary Ethel who married Johnny Harrington, Leo, Lawrence, Paul, Andrew, and Helen. William is buried in Paulding at St. Michael's.

Joseph Kerley married Mary Jane Fagan in Paulding and they later moved to Bassfield. He died in 1934 and is buried at St. James. They were the parents of eight children.....

- (1) Teresa -m- John Daley
- (2) Annie -m- Tim Hannegan
- (3) Katie -m- John Burns (two of their daughters became nuns)
- (4) Regina -m- Tim Daley
- (5) Virgie Jane -m- Joe Daley
- (6) Laura -m- Ed Kirby
- (7) Johnnie -m- Nettie McGill
- (8) Sylvester -m- Kathy Kirby

Thomas Leo Kerley married Elizabeth Fagan. They were the owners of a hotel in Bassfield. They were the parents of six children.....

- (1) Charlie -m- Margaret Kirby
- (2) John -m- Mary Clark
- (3) Tom -m- Effie McGee
- (4) Will -m- Margaret Faler
- (5) Kate -m- Reed Clark
- (6) Mary -m- Fred Burkett

Tom died in 1893 and is buried in Paulding.

Peter Kerley was born in 1864 and died in 1911. He married Ellen Gunn. They also lived in Bassfield and are buried there at St. James. Peter and Ellen had six children...

- (1) Beatrice -m- Mike Harrington
 - (2) Allie
 - (3) Lucy
 - (4) Amelda
 - (5) Bertha
 - (6) Peter
- lived in Oklahoma - one married an Indian
- died of typhoid

The only daughter of John and Mary Kerley was our grandmother and great-grandmother, Bridget. She was born in Paulding in 1857 and died in Hattiesburg in 1947.

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In 1886 Bridget married a widower, James M. French, of Paulding. Jim was raising the daughter of his first wife, Alice Gunn. The child's name was Gertrude Gunn. She was born in 1882 and died in 1963. She married a Stewart.

Jim and Bridget were the parents of nine children.....

- (1) William James (1887-1953) -m- Rosie Mayatt (1896-1977)
- (2) Mary Teresa (1888-1893) burned to death as a child
- (3) Thomas Leo (1897-1914) died in an accident at school
- (4) Elizabeth Ellen (1888-1961) -m- Thaddeus Dean
- (5) *Jeanette (1895-1977) -m- John Grimsley
- (6) Laura Agnes (1901-1945)
- (7) Columbus Vincent (1893-1973)-m- Sylvia Pierpont
- (8) Joseph Henry (1891-1963__ -m- Angela
- (9) John Ira (1899-1966) -m- Josephine Brogan

*Aunt Nettie was listed on the 1910 census as Winnifred. That could have been her first name because her grandmother, Jim's mother, was named Winnifred.